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control information for controlling playback of the multimedia information, and [said] wherein the playback means plays back the multimedia information [on the basis of] based on the generated control information.

17. (Amended) A method according to claim 13, wherein the network [sever] server comprises the 13th step of generating group management information for managing a plurality of users having similar personal information as one group[,] and generating, based on the group management information, the control information for controlling playback of the multimedia information, and wherein the third step comprises the 14th step of playing back the multimedia information on the basis of the control information generated by execution of the 13th step.

Please add the following claims:

--21. A multimedia information playback apparatus, comprising:

a first input unit configured to receive multimedia information during use, wherein the multimedia information comprises video data and audio data distributed from a first distribution source;

a second input unit configured to receive control information during use, wherein the control information comprises information distributed from a second distribution source; and

a playback unit configured to play back multimedia information received by the first input unit based on control information received by the second input unit during use.--

--22. A multimedia information playback method, comprising:

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receiving multimedia information, wherein the multimedia information comprises video data and audio data distributed from a first distribution source;

receiving control information, wherein the control information is distributed from a second distribution source; and

playing back the received multimedia information based on the received control information.--

It is believed that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this Preliminary Amendment. However, if any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct said fees from Conley, Rose & Tayon Deposit Account No. 501505/5664-00100/EBM.

Respectfully submitted,



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